

AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract appearing on page 28 as follows:

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B1  
A method where ~~For remnants of a determined type, e.g. hides,~~ at least one mask is established for a remnant ~~whose are that~~ is subdivided into various zones which correspond to different ~~value levels of a characteristic~~ characteristics of the material of the remnant, e.g. the color and grain of the leather. A set of constraints is assigned to component pieces of ~~a determined type of an~~ article, ~~which set of constraints includes at least one value constraint for a characteristic of the material of the remnant, and links.~~ Links can also be ~~are~~ defined between some of the component pieces, ~~which links have different levels as a function in particular of relationships imposed between constraints assigned to the pieces.~~ ~~The digitized image of each remnant has applied to it the~~ At least one mask or each mask corresponding to the type of is applied to the remnant so as to subdivide the image of the remnant into various zones having uniform characteristics; ~~and laying~~ Laying out is performed automatically by disposing the pieces in the zones of the image of the remnant as a function of any constraints assigned to the pieces, and in compliance with the links defined between the pieces.

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